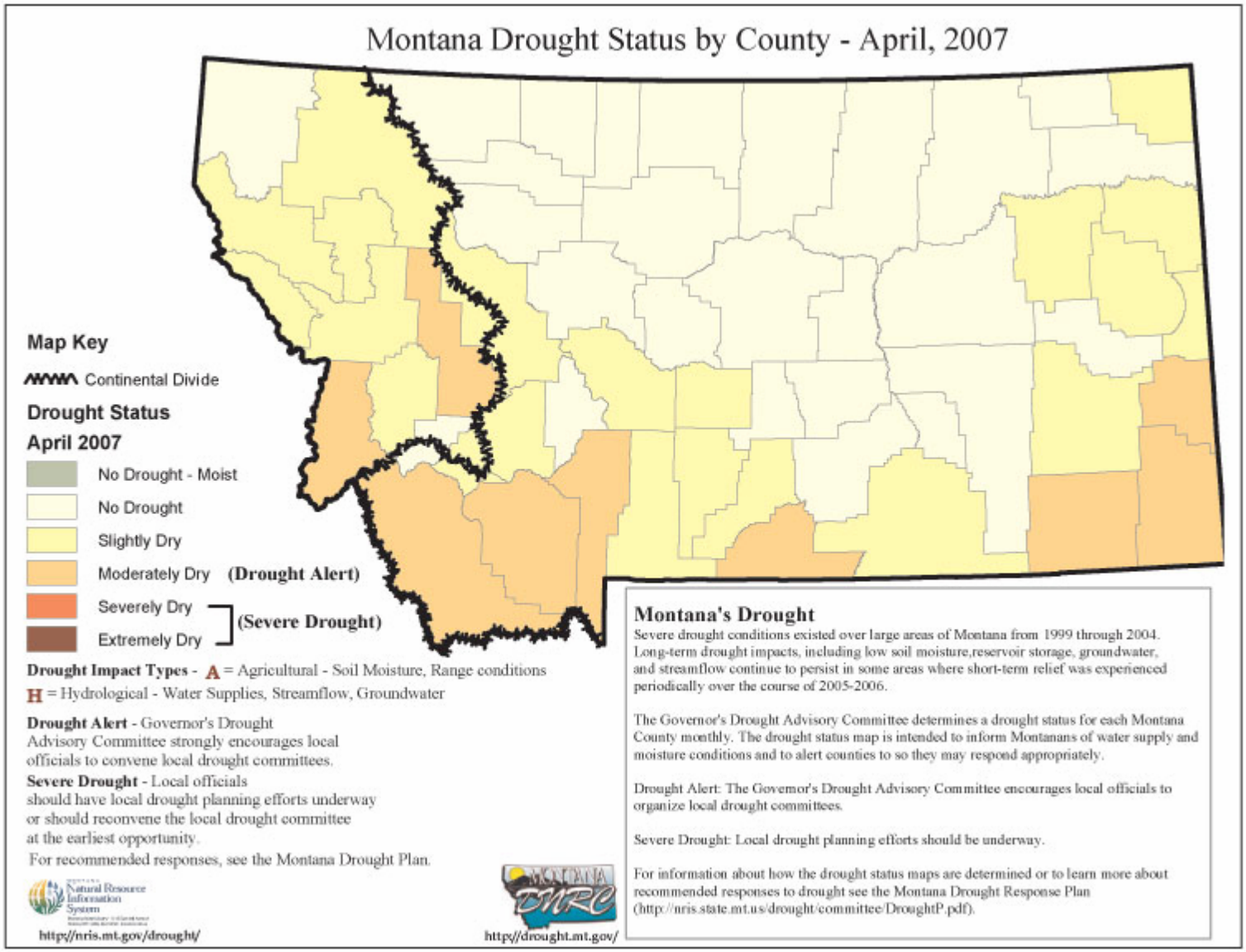
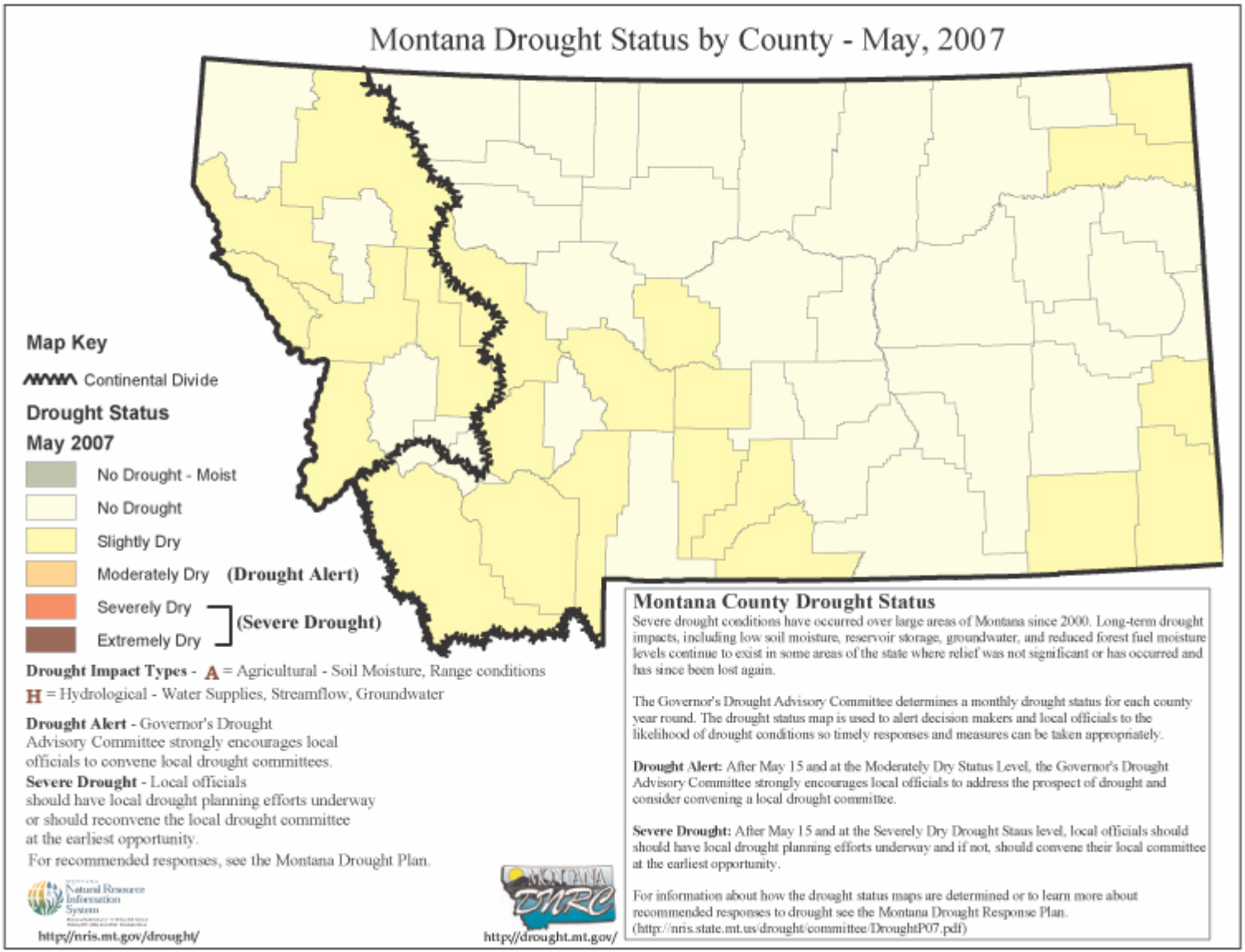
Montana Drought Status - April



Montana Drought Status - May



Governor's Drought Advisory Committee Meeting

May 23, 2007

National Weather Service

Ray Nickless

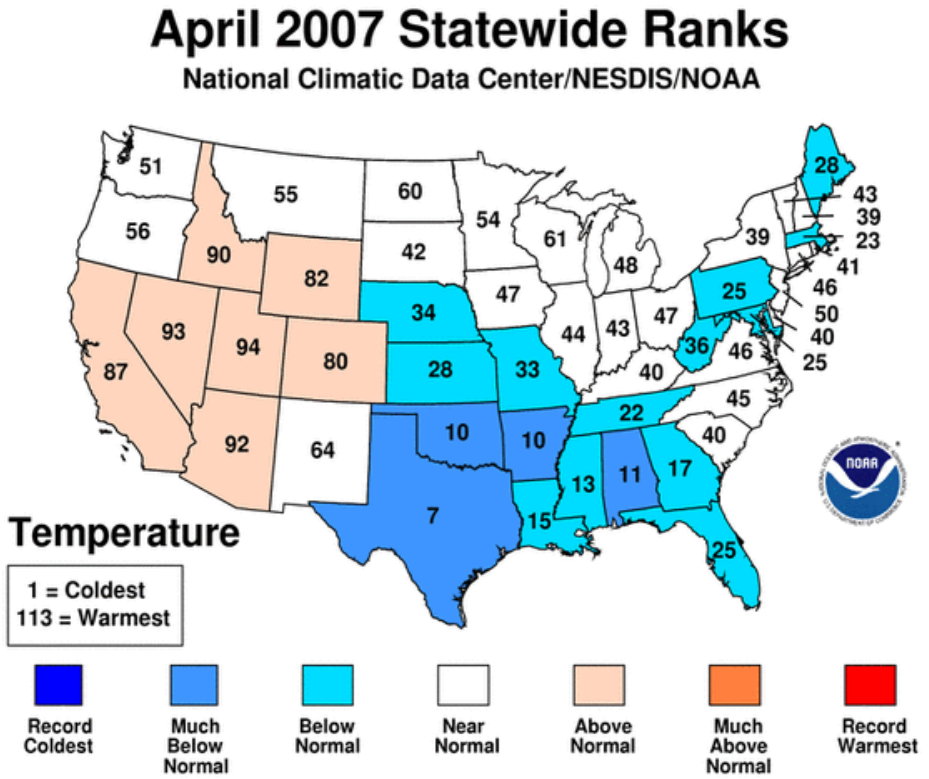
Phillipsburg, MT

Phillipsburg, MT

Temperature Rankings

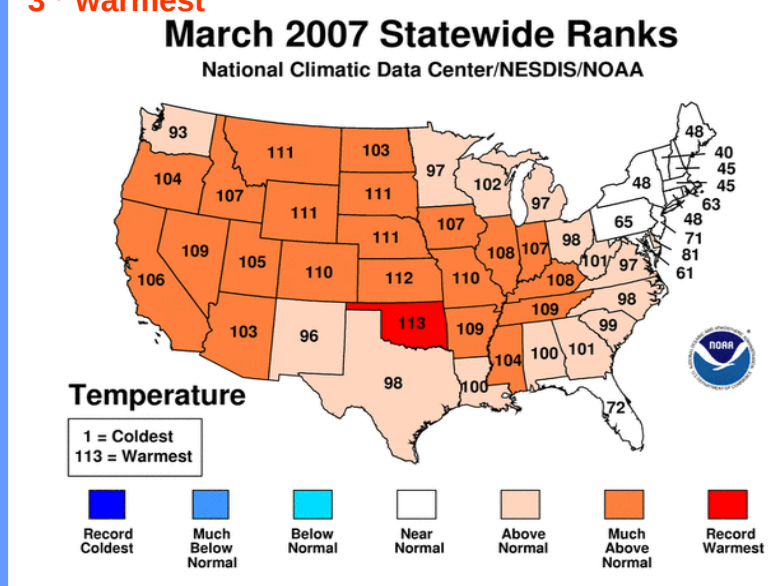
Averaged Across Entire State

Near normal

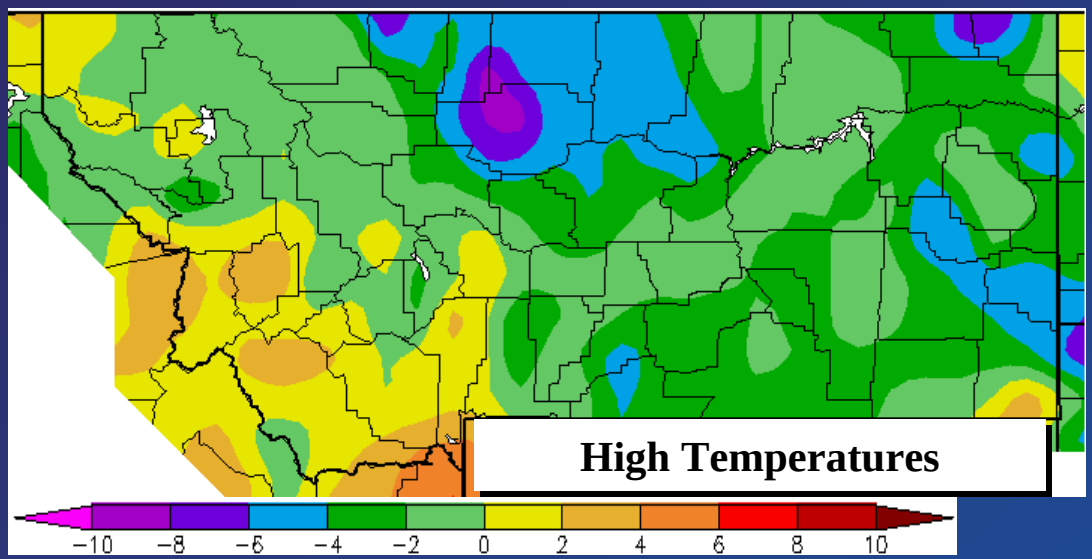


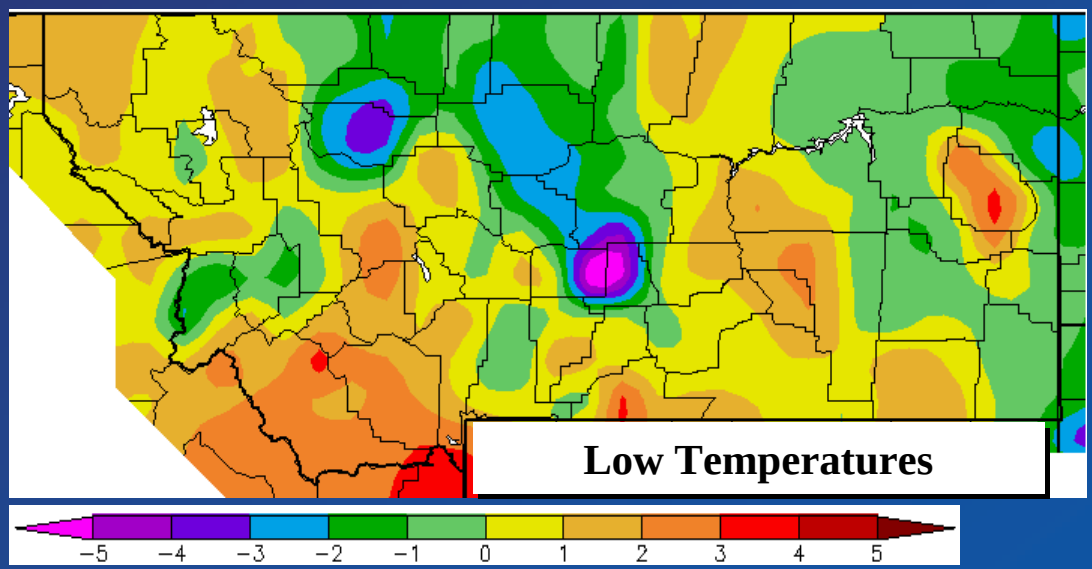
- April 55th coldest of 113 years
- Followed very warm March

3rd warmest



Temperature Anomalies
April 2007

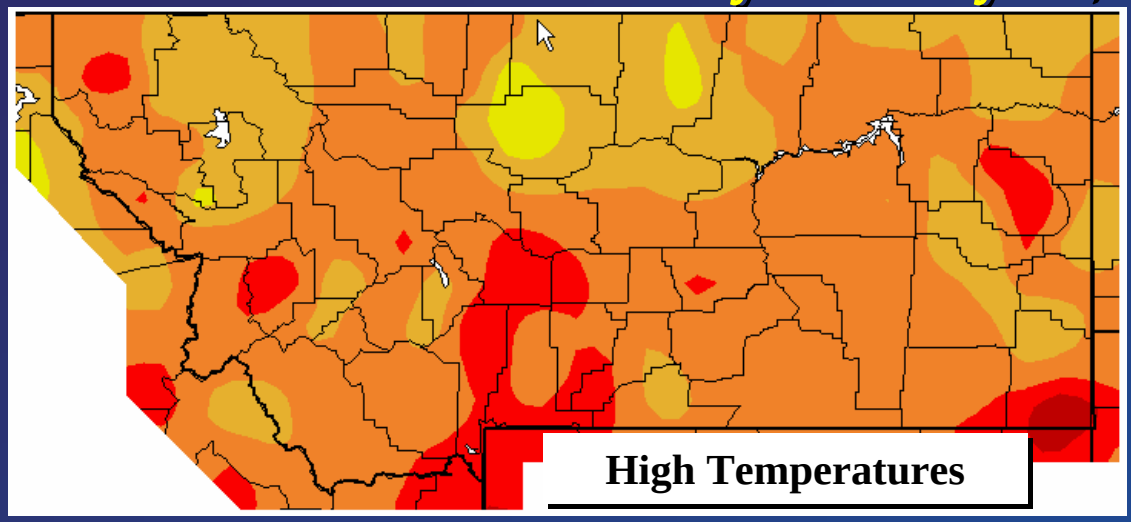


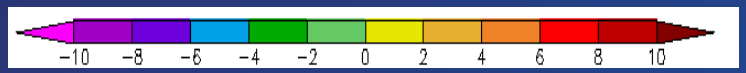


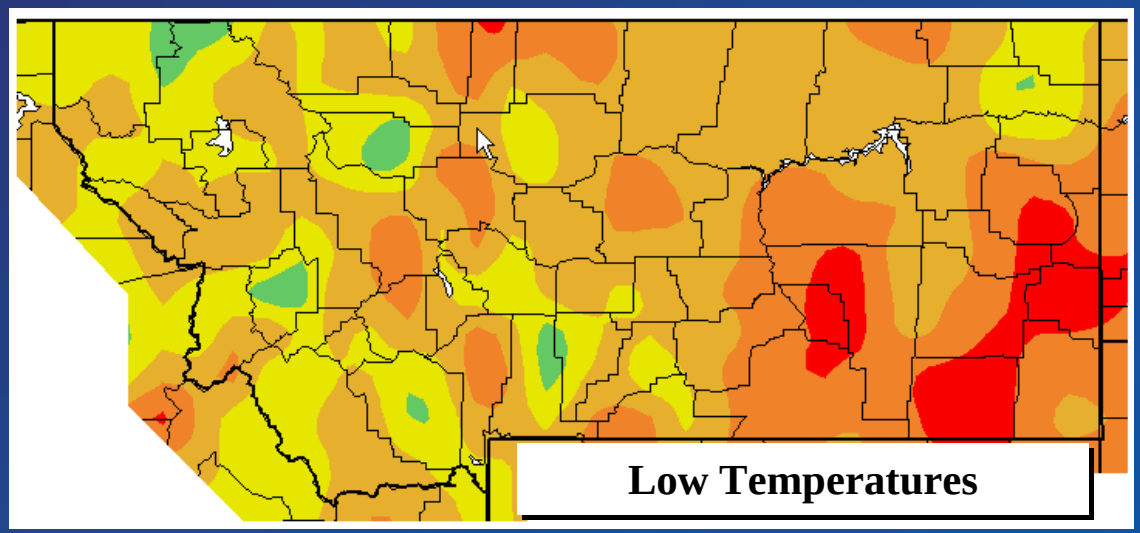
- **Highs**
  - *West – Near to slightly above normal*
  - *Central and east – Below to well below normal*
- **Lows**
  - *West through south central – Near to above normal*
  - *North central… central and east – Near to below normal*

Departure from Average Temperature

May 1 – May 19, 2007





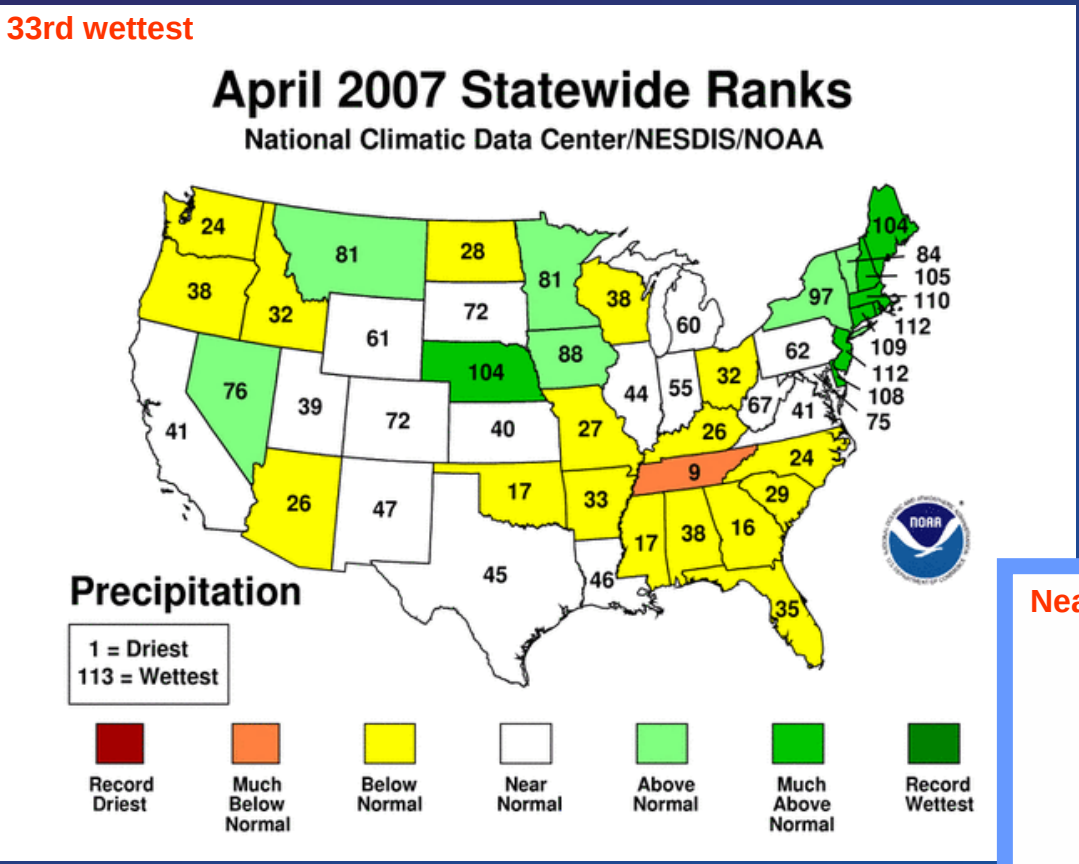


- Warm overall
- Highs averaging 4 to 8 degrees above normal
  - *8 to 10 degrees above normal in some areas east of the divide*
- Lows near normal west… slightly above normal east

Precipitation Rankings

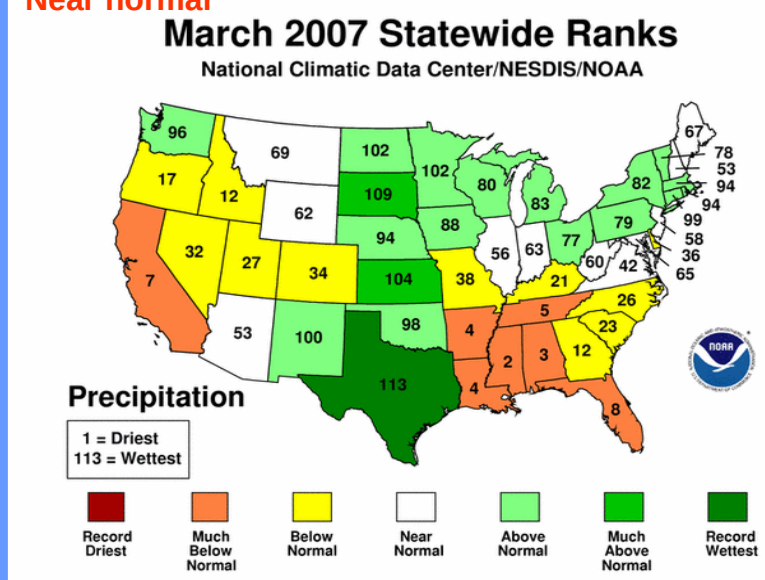
Averaged Across Entire State

33rd wettest



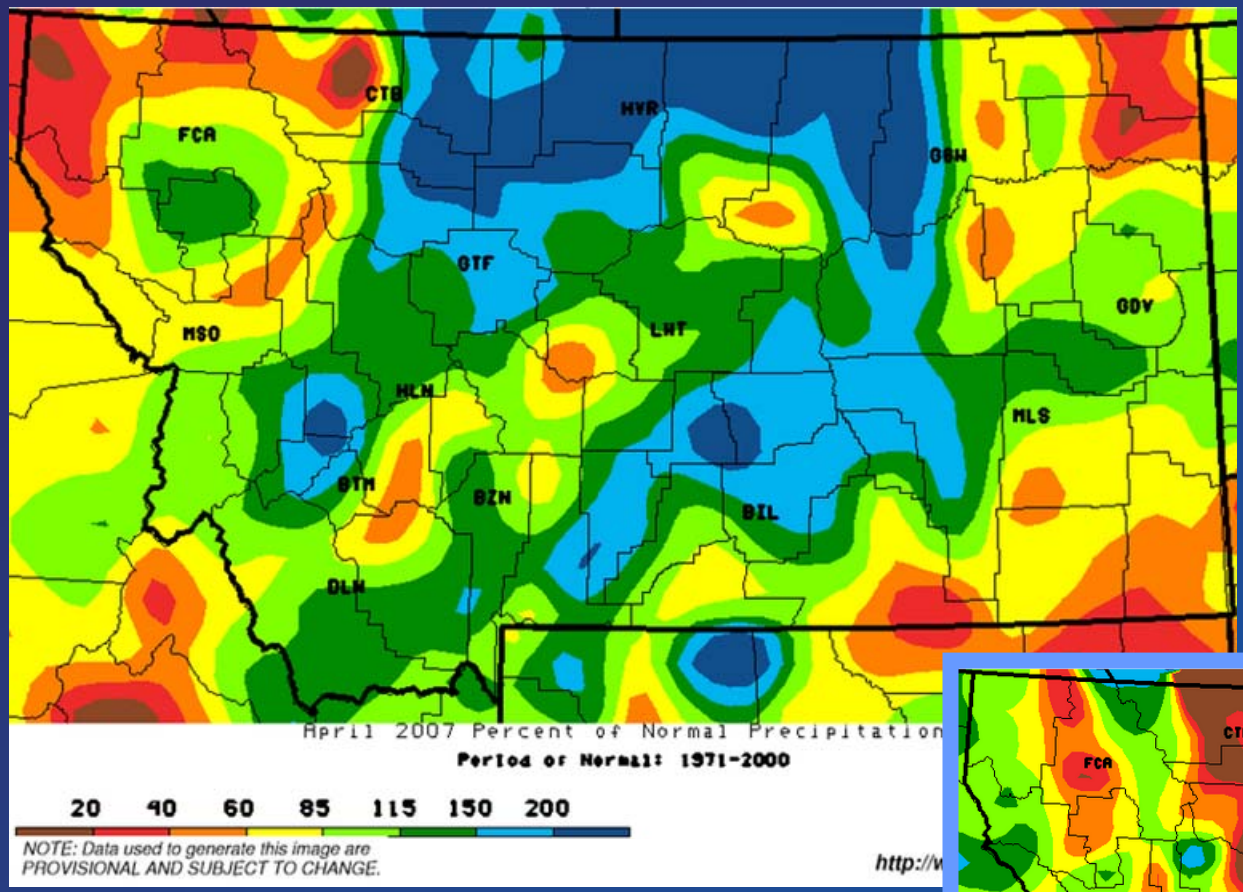
- April 33rd wettest of 113 years
- Followed near normal March

Near normal

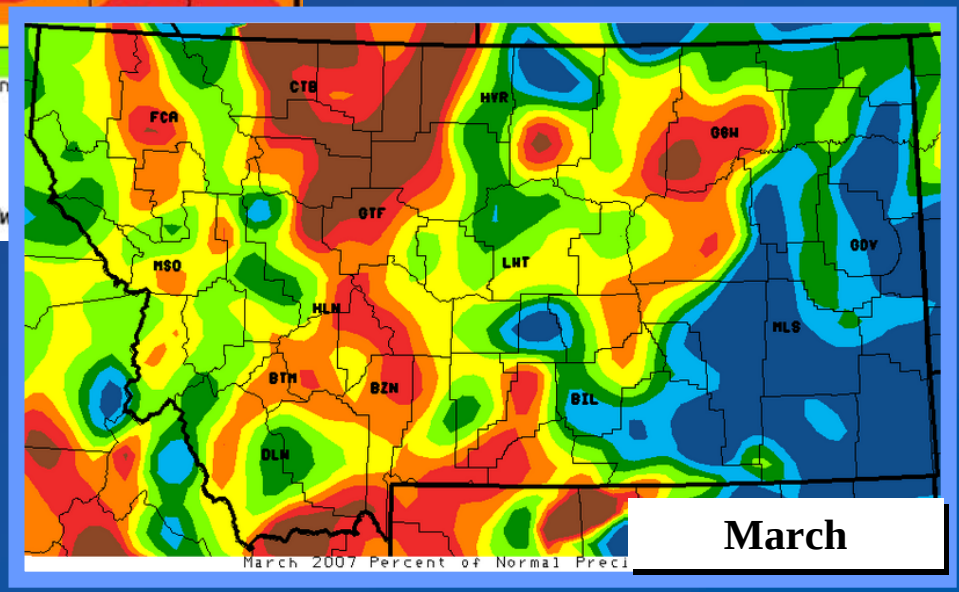


Percent of Normal Precipitation

April 2007



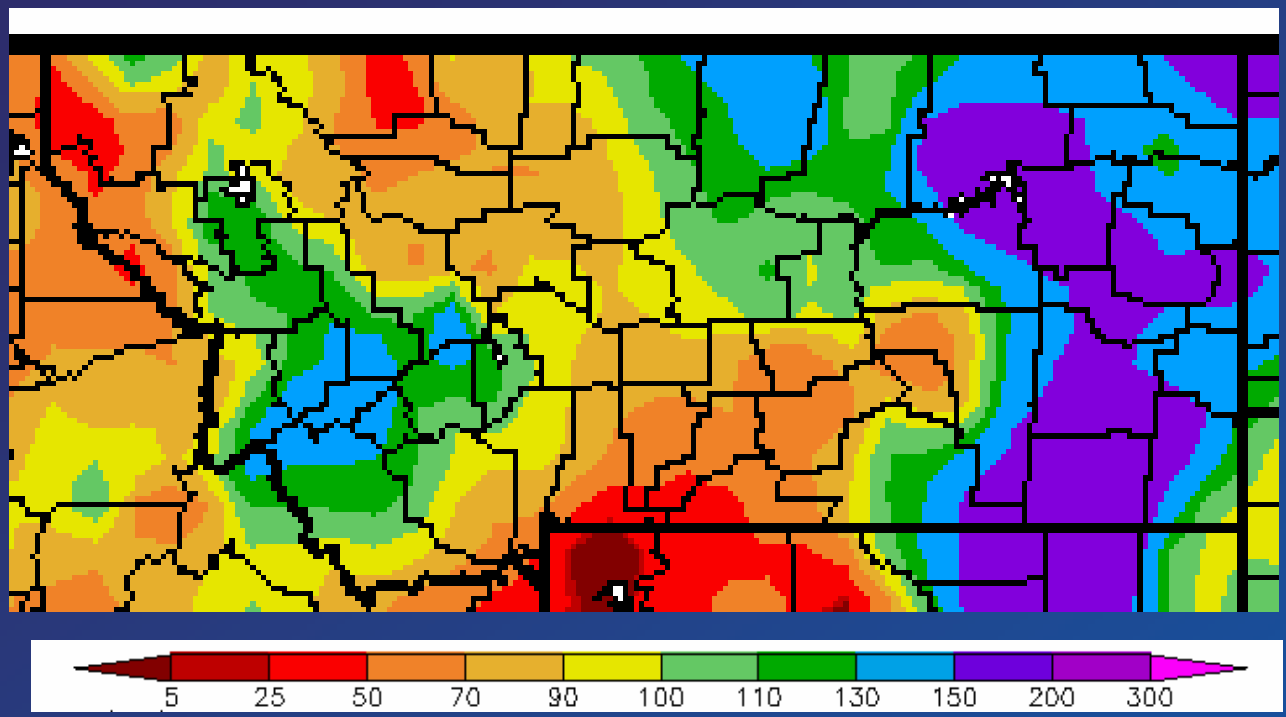
- Large portion of state above normal
  - *North central better than 200% of normal*
- Smaller areas below to well below normal
  - *Northwest*
  - *Northeast*
  - *Southeast*



March

Percent of Average Precipitation

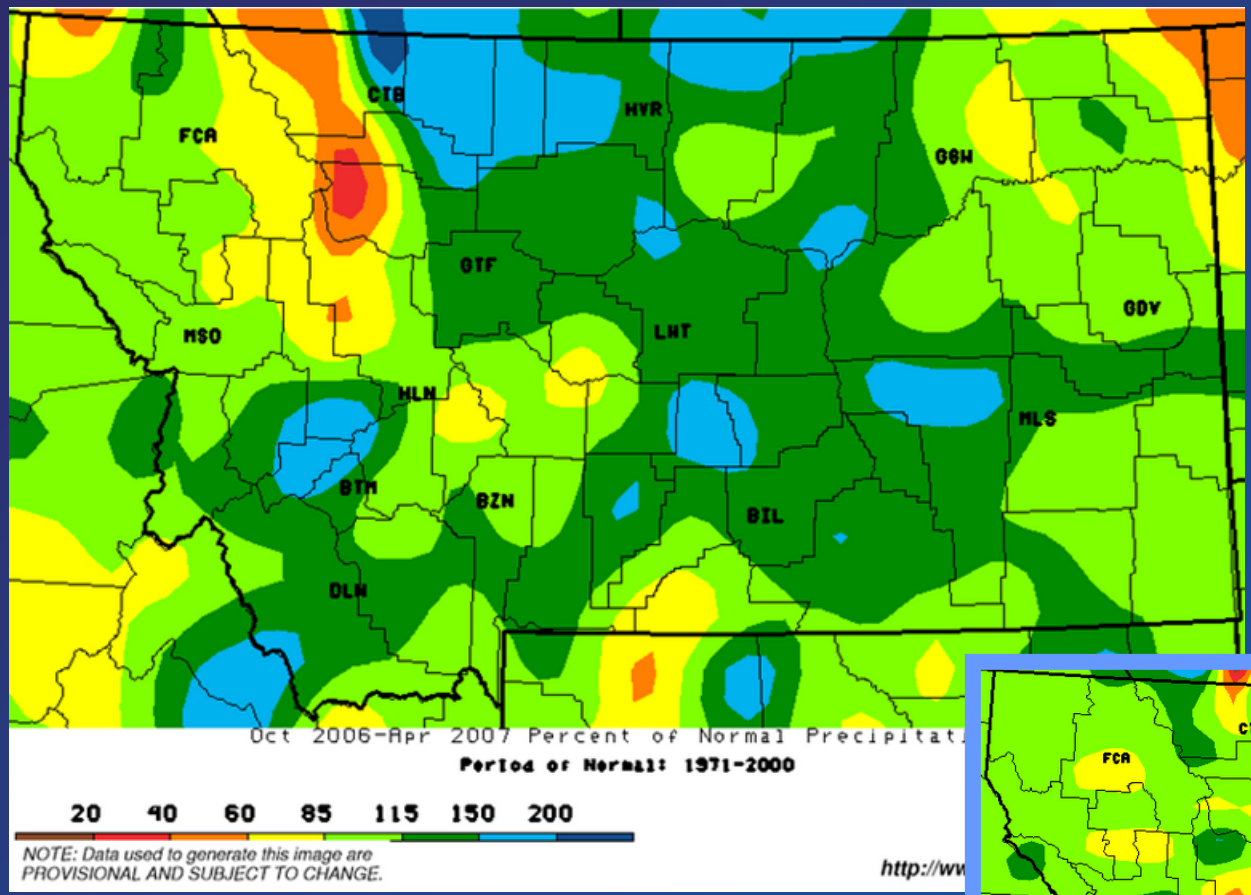
May 1 – May 21, 2007



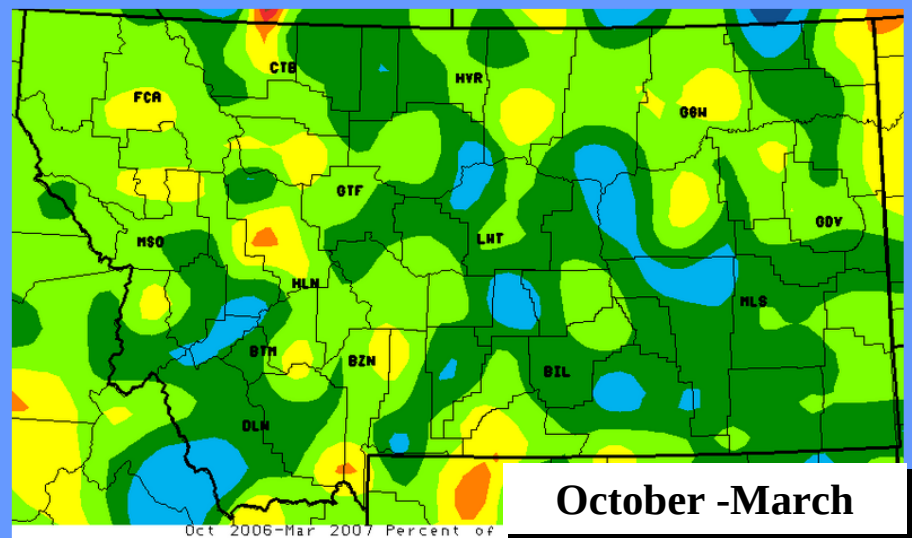
- About half of state above to well above normal
  - *East is WET with large area better than 300% of normal*
- About half of state below to well below normal
  - *Northwest and south central 5% to 25% of normal*

Percent of Normal Precipitation

Water Year 2007



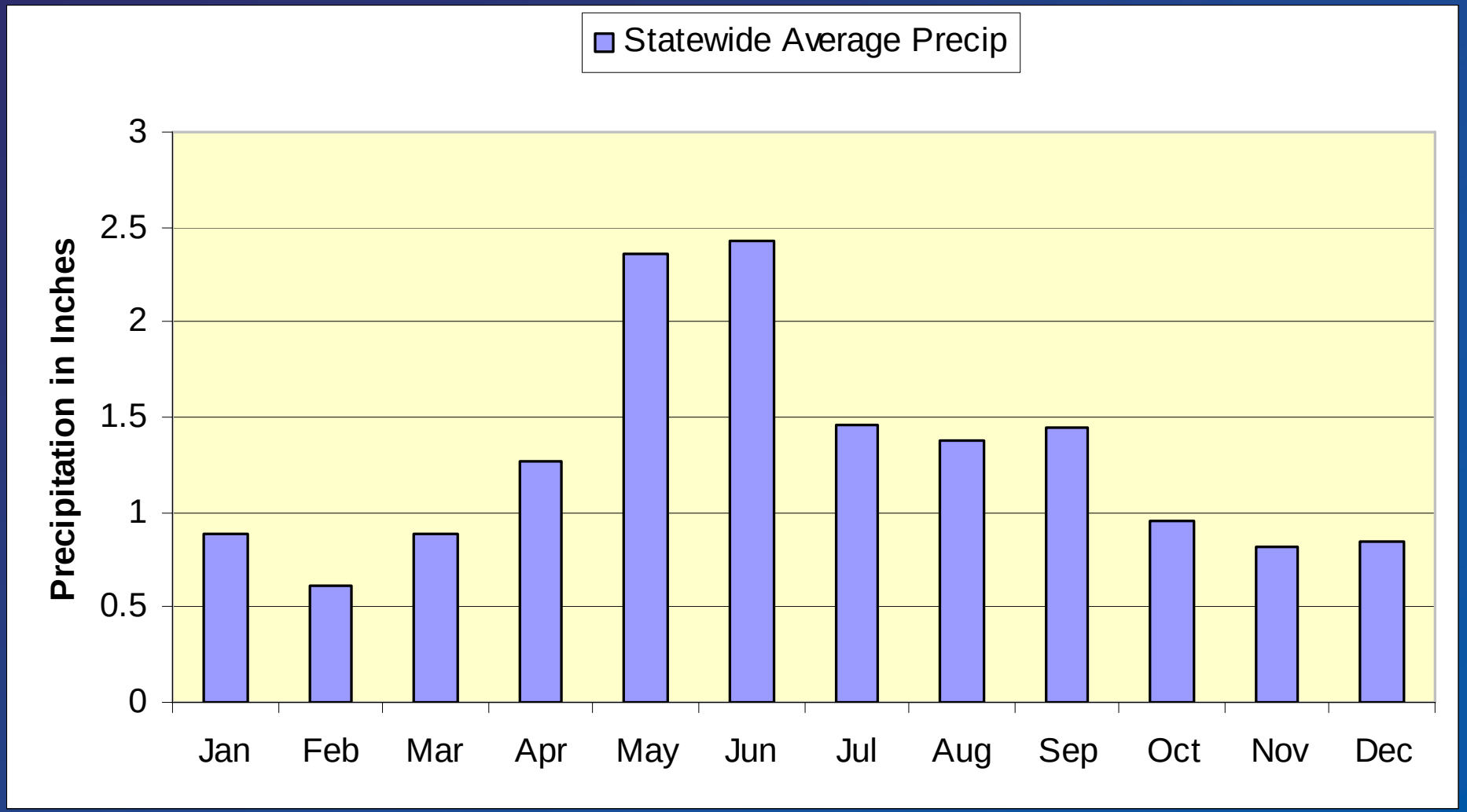
- October 2006 – April 2007
- Most of state near to above normal
  - *Lost some ground along the northern Rockies*



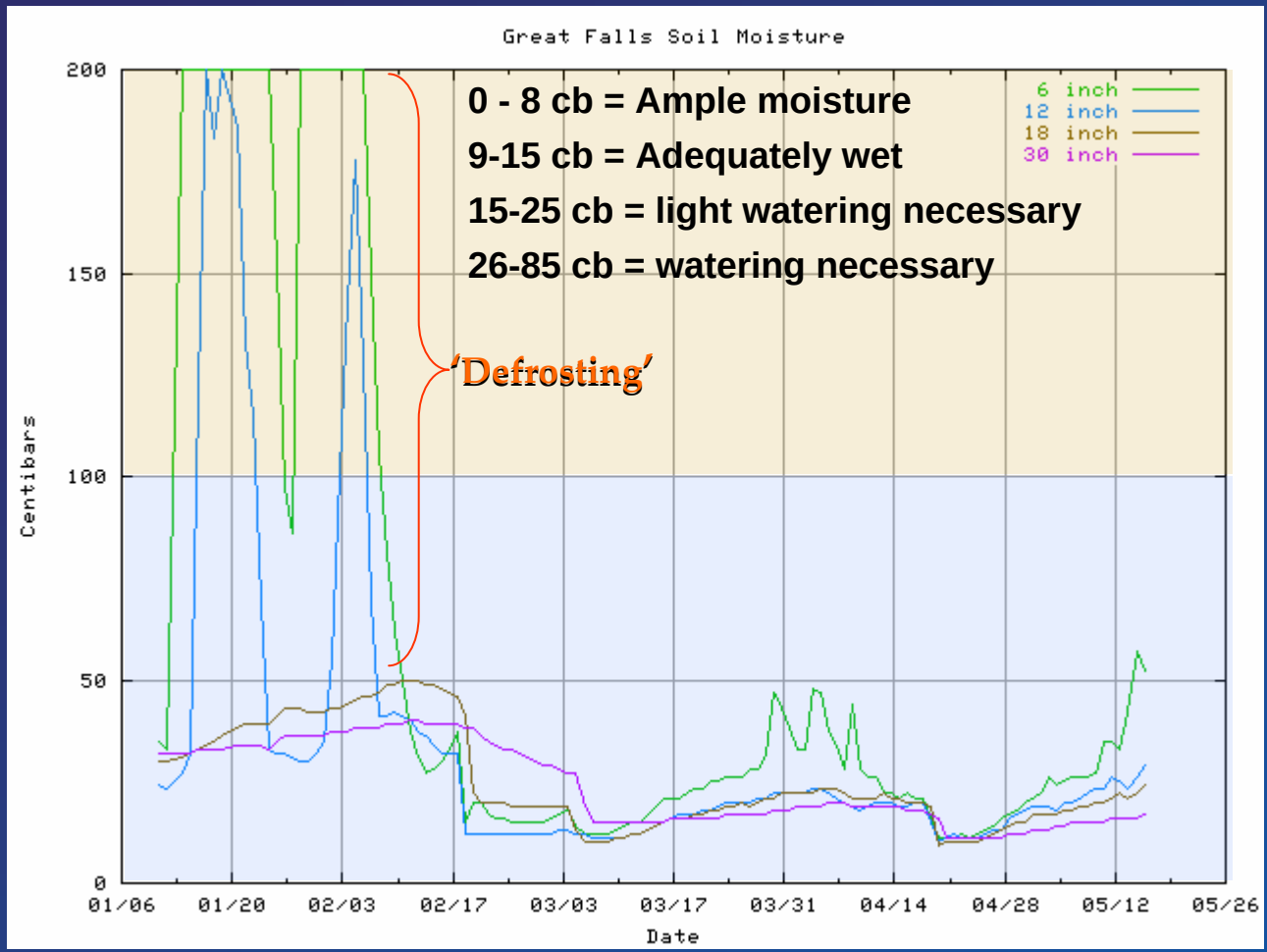
October -March

Statewide Average Precipitation

May second wettest month on average

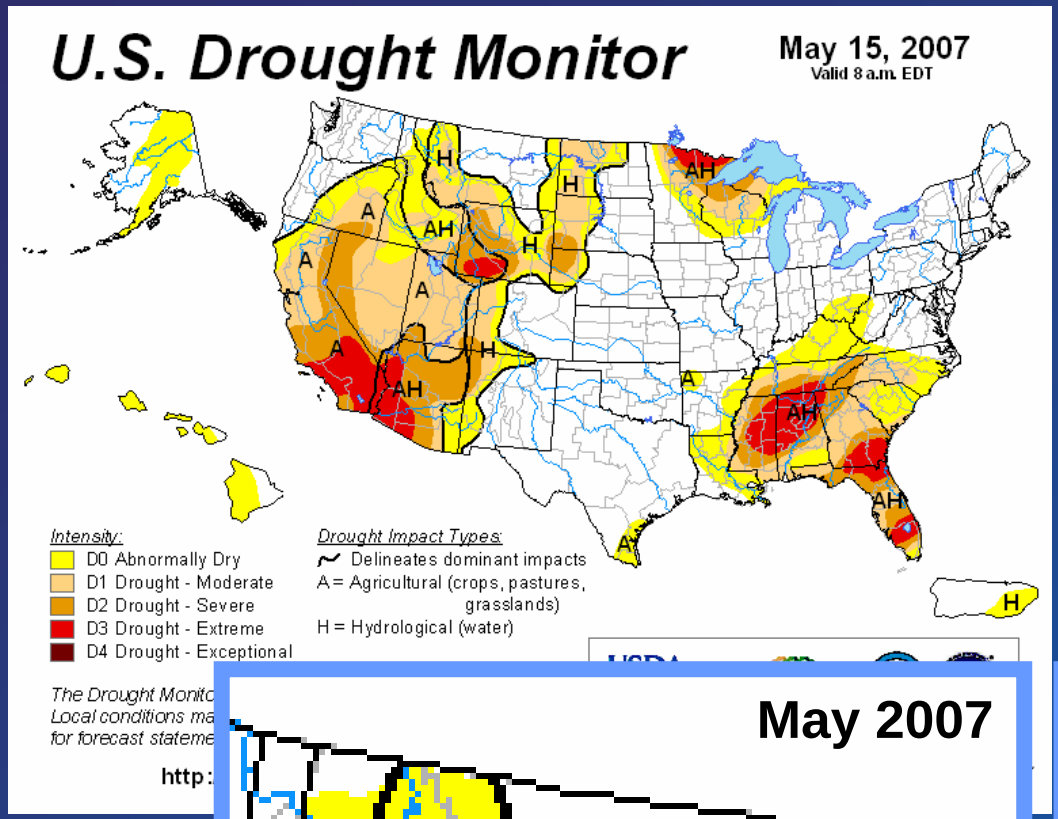


Great Falls Soil Moisture

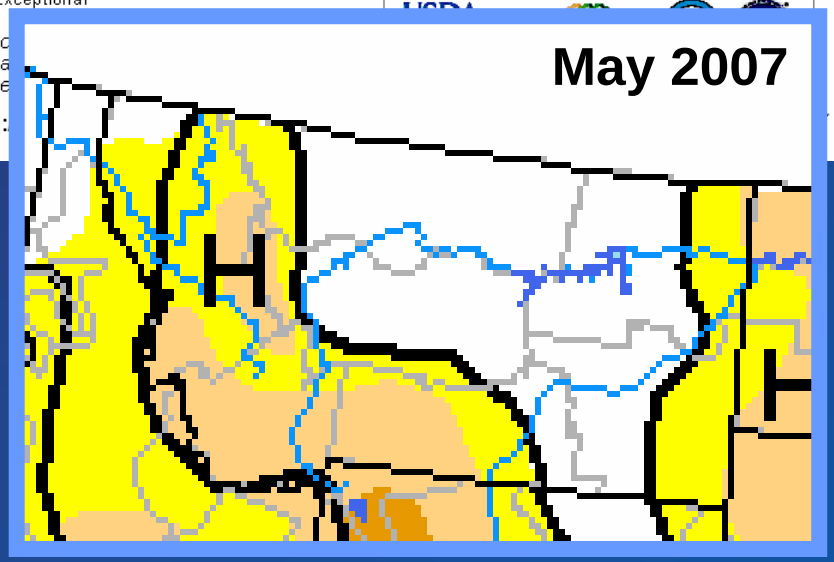


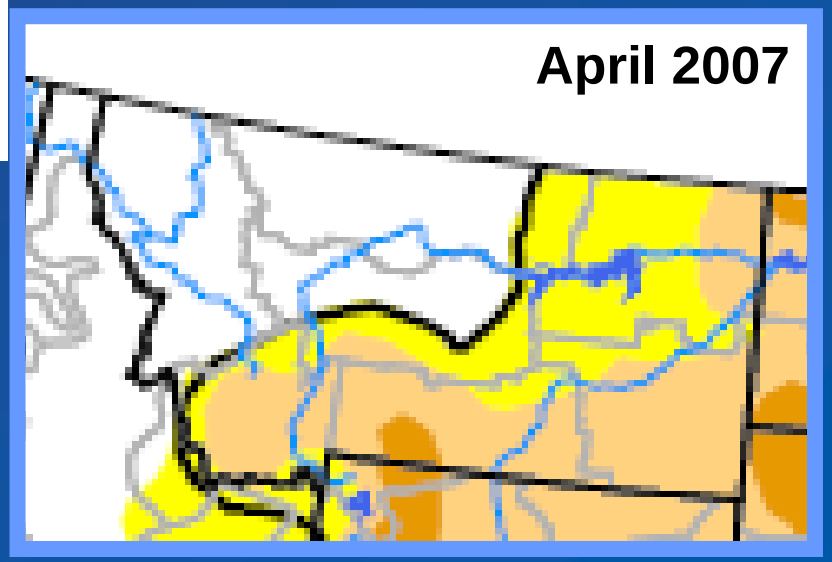
- 12…18 and 30 inch levels moist
  - *15 to 30 cb*
- 6 inch level drying quickly with recent warm temperatures

National Drought Monitor
Issued May 15, 2007



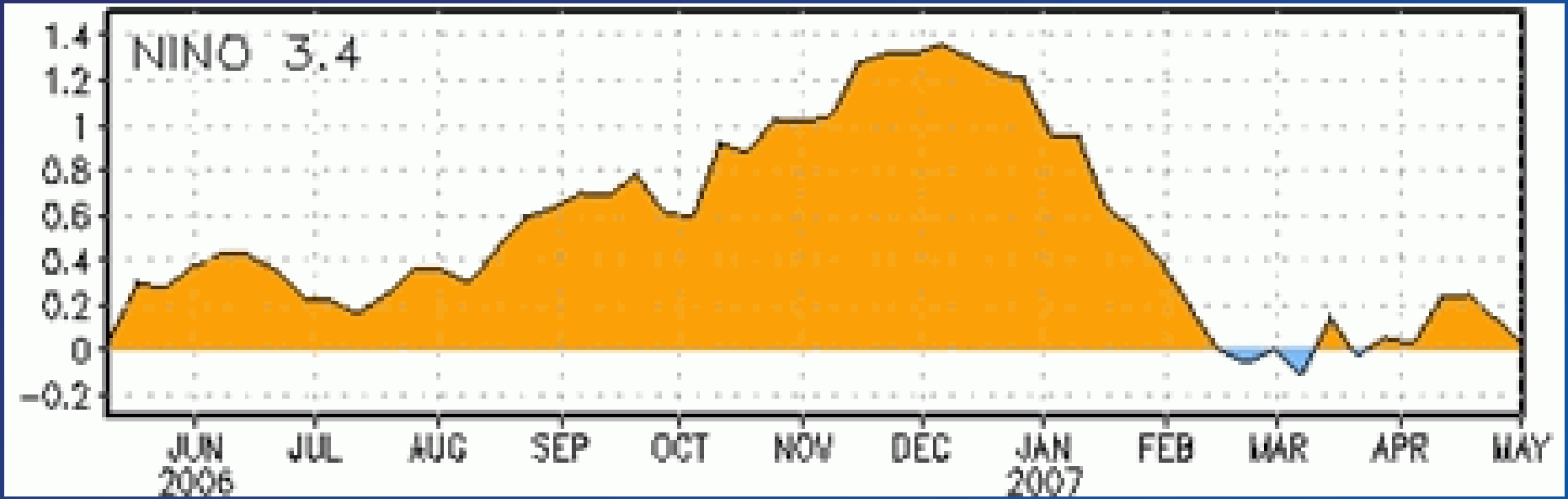
- Drought expansion west of divide
  - *Abnormally Dry (D0) to Moderate Drought (D1)*
- Drought decrease south… central and east
  - *Moderate Drought (D1) removed*
  - *Still some Abnormally Dry (D0) along the eastern border*





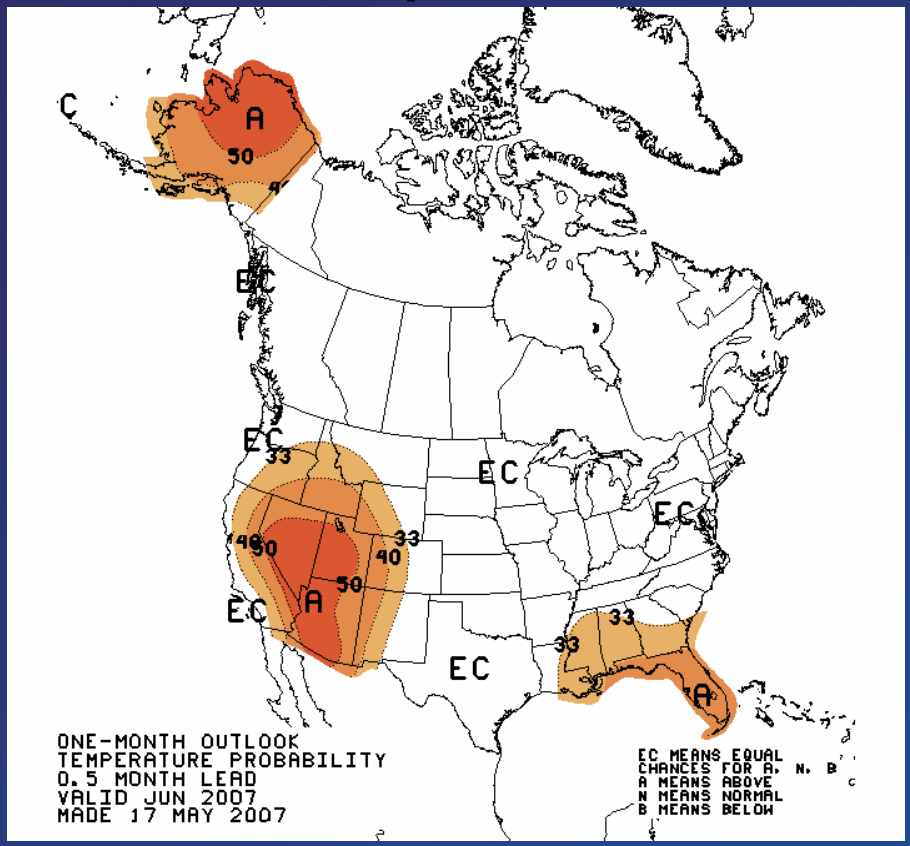
El Niño / La Niña

- El Niño / La Niña conditions currently in neutral phase
- Transition from neutral to La Niña conditions (below normal sea surface temperatures) possible during next 2-3 months



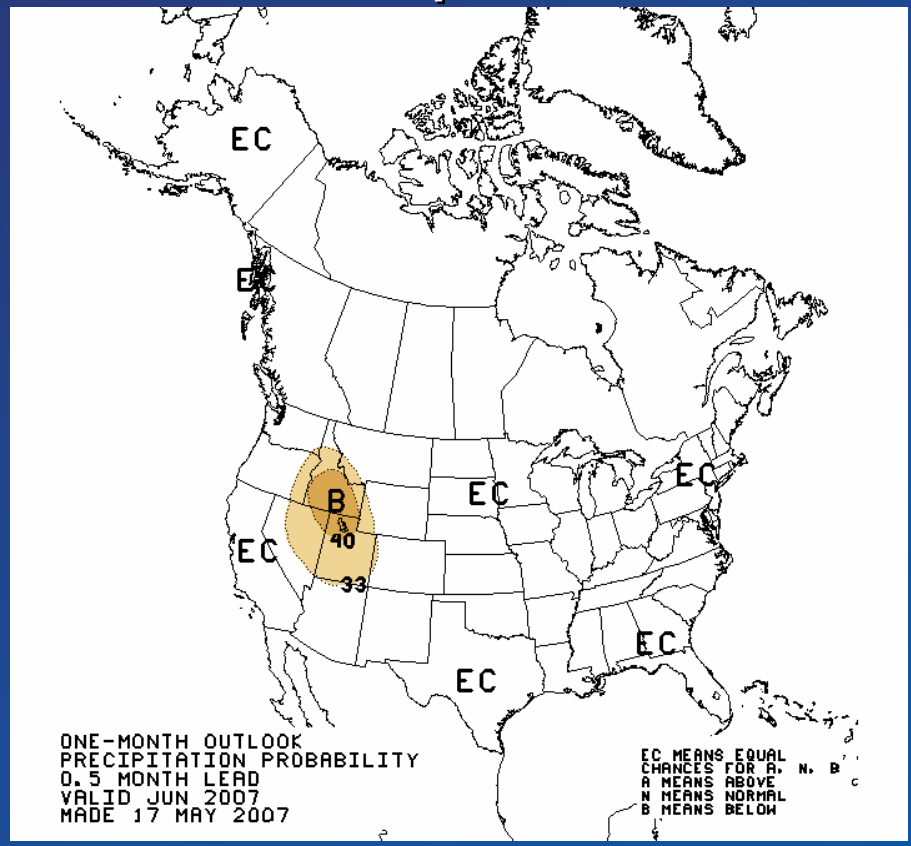
June Outlook

Temperature



- Southwest – 33% to 40% chance temperatures will be above normal
- Remainder of Montana – No forecast skill
  - *Equal chances temperatures will be above… below or near normal*

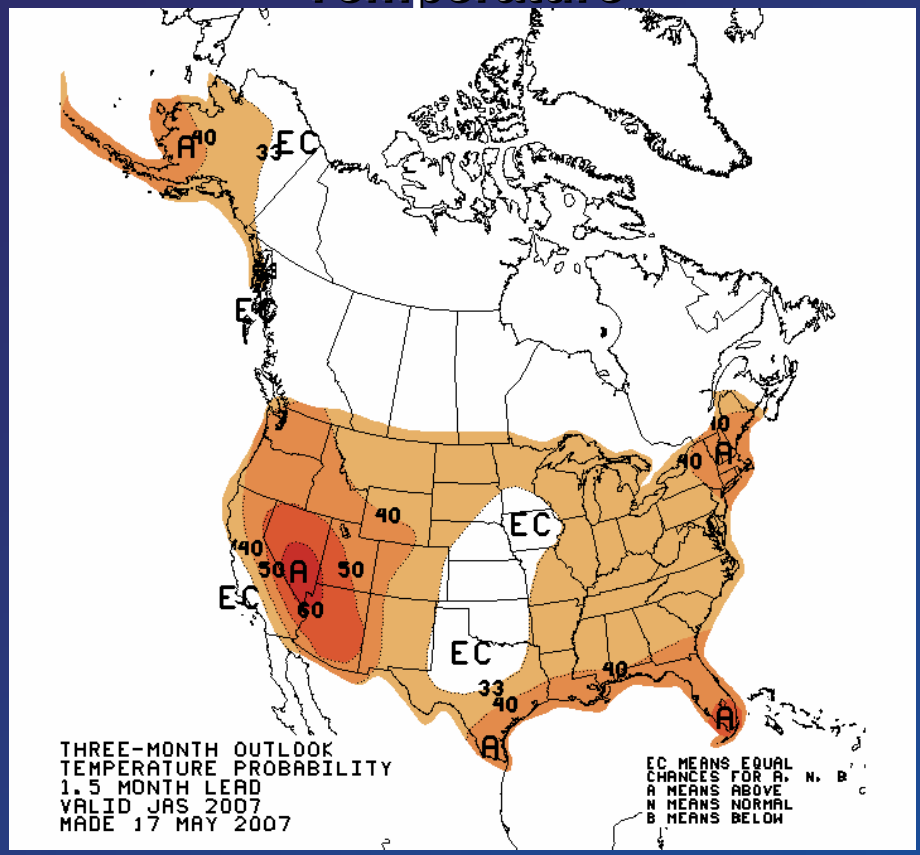
Precipitation



- No forecast skill across most of Montana...
  - *Equal chances precipitation will be above... below or near normal*
  - *Small area extreme southwest with 33% to 40% chance for below normal precipitation*

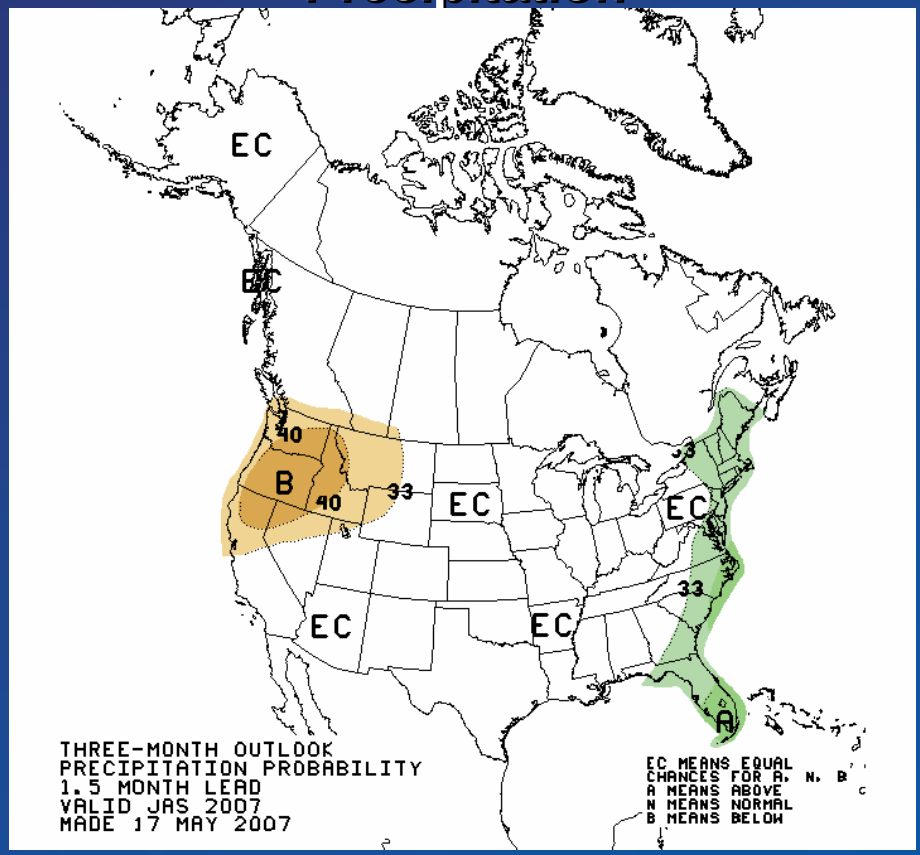
July – September Outlook

Temperature



- 33% to 40% chance of above normal temperatures across all of Montana

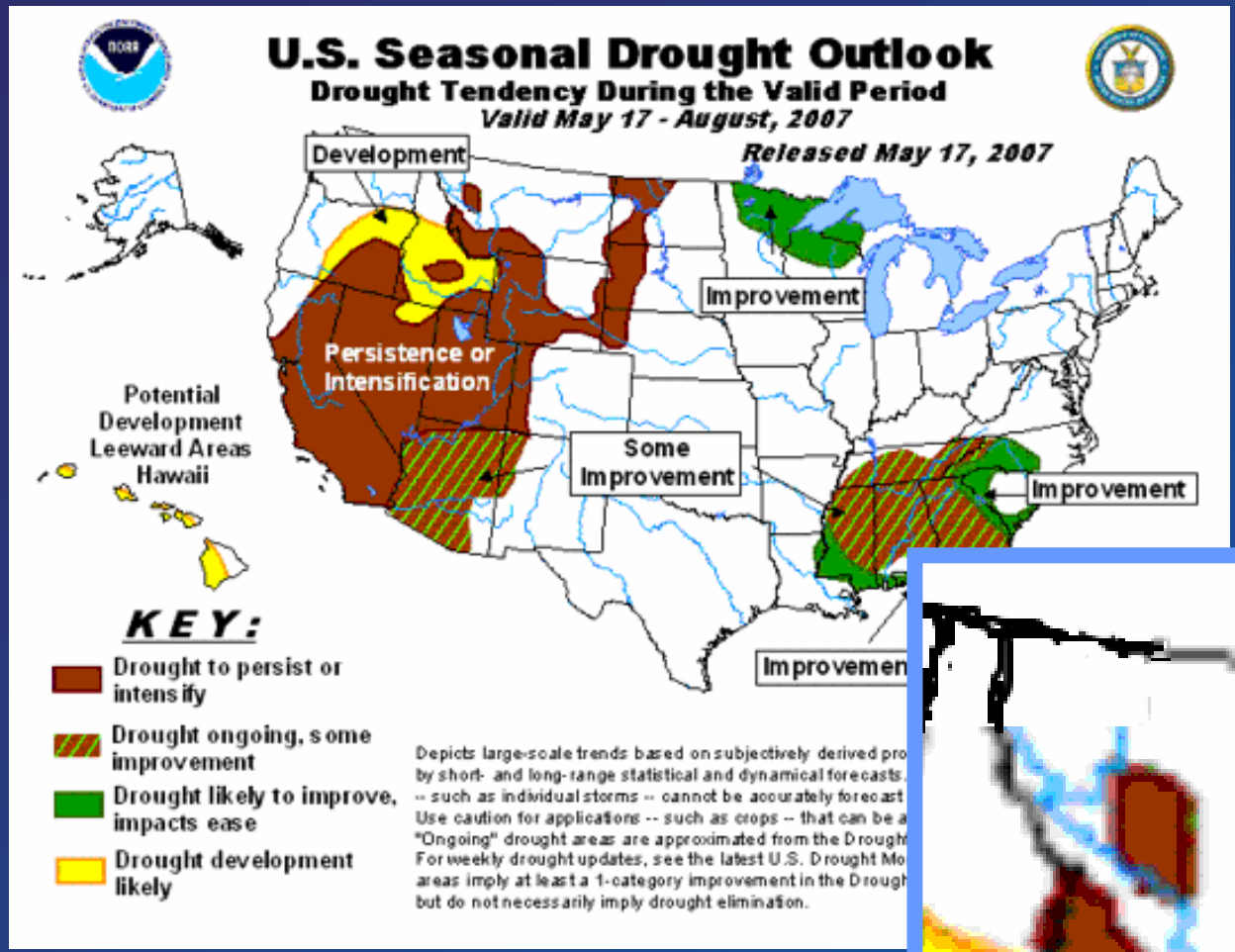
Precipitation



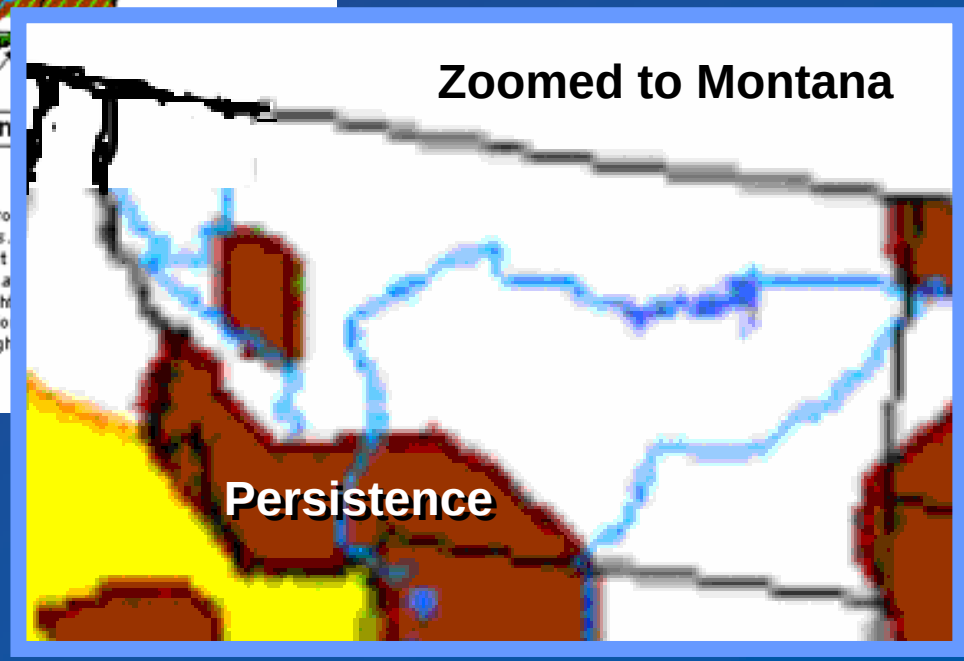
- West and central Montana... 33% to 40% chance of below normal precipitation
- East – No forecast skill
  - *Equal chances precipitation will be above... below or near normal*

Drought Outlook through June

Issued May 17, 2007



- Areas in drought status expected to see drought persistence through the summer




The End